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ABSTRACT

This publication is a guide to programs created by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. An opening section describes the McKinney Act itself and the agency that developed the guide. The bulk of the publication lists and describes 24 McKinney Act programs grouped under the following headings: (1) education and training programs; (2) emergency services and shelter; (3) health/mental health; (4) housing assistance; (5) miscellaneous; (6) nutrition; and (7) veterans. The descriptions summarize the programs' purposes, describe eligible applicants, and list the addresses and telephone numbers of contact persons. (JB)

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The McKinney Act

A Program Guide

The Interagency Council on the Homeless

March 1991

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"We must do more to meet the needs of the homeless, and more importantly, we must do more to understand and to eliminate the causes of homelessness."

George Bush

"I intend to bring together all facets of the Federal Government in partnership with State and local government and the private and nonprofit sectors to help end the national tragedy of homelessness in America."

Jack Kemp, Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The McKinney Act

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, signed into law on July 22, 1987, and reauthorized on November 7, 1988, and November 29, 1990, created a number of new programs to "provide urgently needed assistance to protect and improve the lives and safety of the homeless." These programs address the areas of emergency food and shelter, transitional and longer term housing, primary and mental health care services, education, job training and alcohol and drug abuse programs.

The following programs are currently funded under the Act: Adult Education for the Homeless, Community Mental Health Services Research Demonstration Projects, Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program, Education for Homeless Children and Youth—State and Local Grants, Emergency Community Services Homeless Assistance Grants, Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, Emergency Shelter Grants Program, Food Stamp Program for the Homeless, Health Services for the Homeless, Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans Program, Homeless Veterans Reintegration Projects, Job Training for the Homeless Demonstration Program, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Research Demonstration Projects on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Treatment for Homeless Persons, Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Assistance for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Dwellings.

Shelter Plus Care Program, Supplemental Assistance for Facilities to Assist the Homeless (SAFAH) and Supportive Housing Demonstration Program—Permanent Housing Component and Transitional Housing Program.

In addition, real and personal property are available under the Title V Surplus Property Program.

Several McKinney Act programs are currently authorized but not funded for FY 1991. They include: Primary Health Care for Homeless and At-Risk Children, Family Support Center Demonstration Projects, and Services to Prevent Separation of Homeless Children/Families (for which authorization begins in FY 1992).

Interagency Council

The Stewart B. McKinney Act mandates the Council to perform the following:

- Review all Federal activities and programs to assist homeless individuals;
- Reduce duplication among programs and activities by Federal agencies;
- Monitor, evaluate and recommend improvements in programs and activities conducted by Federal agencies, State and local governments and private voluntary organizations;
- Provide professional and technical assistance to States, local governments and other public and private nonprofit organizations;
- Collect and disseminate information;
- Report annually to the President and Congress on the extent and nature of homelessness and evaluate the Federal response;
- Publish a bimonthly bulletin.

Membership

Council members include the heads of the following Federal agencies: Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, Transportation and Veterans Affairs, as well as ACTION, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, General Services Administration, Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Postal Service.

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McKinney Act Programs

What follows are summaries of the McKinney Act programs—the purposes, eligible applicants and program contacts. In addition to these programs, a number of other Federal programs are available to assist the homeless. Contact the Council for information on these other programs.

Adult Education for the Homeless Program

Purpose Provide assistance to State education agencies so that they can provide a program of literacy training and basic skills remediation for adult homeless individuals.

Eligible applicants State education agencies in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contact James T. Parker, U.S. Department of Education, Division of Adult Education and Literacy, 330 C Street NW., Room 4426, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202, (202) 732–2399.

Community Mental Health Services Research Demonstration Projects

Purpose Award discretionary research demonstration grants for community-based demonstration projects combining housing, treatment and services for homeless severely mentally ill adults.

Eligible applicants Public or private entities, including universities, units of State or local governments and other public or private nonprofit organizations.

Contact Irene S. Levine, Ph.D., Director, Office of Programs for the Homeless Mentally Ill, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Mental Health, Parklawn Building 7C06, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443–3706.

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program

Purpose Provide funds for converting surplus space in VA Medical Centers to domiciliary beds for homeless veterans.

Eligible recipients VA Medical Centers in urban areas.

Contact Richard Olson, Chief, Domiciliary Care Programs, 145A, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 535–7168.

Education for Homeless Children and Youth—State and Local Grants

Purpose Provide funds to State education agencies to develop and implement programs for the education of homeless children.

Eligible applicants State education agencies in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. (State education agencies may make grants to local education agencies.)

Contact Francine Vinson, Project Officer, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Compensatory Education, Room 2004, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202–6132, (202) 401–0728.

Emergency Community Services Homeless Assistance Grants

Purpose Increase existing programs and services for the homeless at the local level, assist the homeless in using these programs and services and promote private-sector assistance.

Eligible applicants The 50 States and 7 territories that receive funding under the Community Services Block Grant Program and federally recognized Indian tribes. (States subsequently must award funds to eligible community action agencies, organizations serving migrant and seasonal farmworkers and certain other organizations.)

Contact Office of Community Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20447, (202) 401–9354.

Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program

Purpose Supplement and expand efforts to provide food, shelter and support services to homeless people; create effective and innovative local programs; and make basic repairs to existing shelters or mass feeding facilities.

Eligible applicants The National Board chaired by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) oversees the distribution of funds. The Board consists of representatives of six private national organizations: the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; Council of Jewish Federations; National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; Salvation Army; and United Way of America. The National Board allocates funds to jurisdictions across the country on a formula basis. Local boards then select qualified private voluntary as well as public organizations to receive grant awards.

Contact Francis X. McCarthy, Emergency Management Specialist, FEMA, Room 710, 500 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–3652, or Wiley B. Cooper, Director, Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, 601 North Fairfax Street, Suite 225, Alexandria, VA 22314–2007, (703) 683–1166.

Emergency Shelter Grants Program

Purpose Renovate, rehabilitate or convert buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless. Within certain limitations, funds can be spent on essential services for the homeless and operating costs.

Eligible applicants States, metropolitan cities and urban counties, according to the formula used for Community Development Block Grants. (State and local governments may distribute part or all of their funds to nonprofit recipients for emergency shelter activities.)

Contact Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708–2140 or (202) 619–8236.

Family Support Center Demonstration Projects

Purpose Authorize demonstrations to provide intensive comprehensive services to homeless families or families at risk of becoming homeless.

This program is currently authorized but not funded.

Food Stamp Program for the Homeless

Purpose Allow the homeless increased access to food stamps by providing expedited service, precluding homeless people from monthly reporting of income changes and excluding from countable income rent paid to house the homeless in hotels. Also permit families who are living with relatives to receive their own allotments.

Eligible applicants Eligible homeless people. States have the option to receive Federal matching funds to provide food stamp outreach to the homeless.

Contact Cecilia Fitzgerald, Supervisor, State Monitoring and Evaluation Section, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 756–3384 or Food Stamp Eligibility, Certification Policy Branch, State Monitoring and Evaluation Section, U.S.

Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 756–3520.

Health Services for the Homeless

Purpose Award grants for health care delivery to the homeless, including primary care services, substance abuse treatment and mental health care services.

Eligible applicants Local private nonprofit organizations and public entities.

Contact Joan Holloway, Director, Division of Special Populations Program Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Parklawn Building 7A22, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443–8134.

Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans Program

Purpose Provide discretionary funds to VA Medical Centers to furnish treatment and rehabilitative services to eligible homeless veterans with a chronic mental illness.

Eligible recipients VA Medical Centers.

Contact Gay Koerber, Associate Director for Policy, Programs and Operations, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service (116), 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 535–7303.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Projects

Purpose Expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the work force by providing them with job training, remedial education, basic literacy instruction, job counseling, referrals and other support services.

Eligible applicants State and local public agencies and Private Industry Councils in the 50 largest U.S. cities and/or jurisdictions which were served through HVRP in FY 1988 and FY 1989.

Contact Eileen Connors, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 523–9110.

Job Training for the Homeless Demonstration Program

Purpose Provide funds for job training activities for homeless individuals, including remedial education, job

search, job counseling, job preparation training and basic literacy instruction.

Eligible applicants State and local public agencies, Indian tribes, private nonprofit organizations and private businesses.

Contact John Heinberg, Office of Strategic Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 535–0682.

Primary Health Care For Homeless and At-Risk Children

Purpose: Authorize demonstration grants to children's hospitals, Health Care for the Homeless grantees and other public and nonprofit entities for outreach and primary health care services for homeless children and children at imminent risk of homelessness.

This program is currently authorized but not funded.

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Purpose: Provide funds for the provision of services to individuals who suffer from severe mental illness, or who

suffer from severe mental illness and substance disorders and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Eligible services include outreach services, screening and diagnostic treatment services, habilitation and rehabilitation services, community mental health services, alcohol and/or drug treatment services, staff training, case management services, supportive and supervisory services in residential settings, referrals and a limited set of housing services.

The PATH program replaces the McKinney Mental Health Services for Homeless (MHSH) Block Grant Program.

Eligible applicants States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. Funds are awarded by a statutorily based formula.

Contact Irene S. Levine, Ph.D., Director, Office of Programs for the Homeless Mentally Ill, National Institute of Mental Health, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 7C–06, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443–3706.

Research Demonstration Projects on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Treatment for Homeless Persons

Purpose Provide cooperative agreements for research demonstration projects that contribute to scientific knowledge regarding effective interventions for homeless individuals with alcohol and/or other drug problems.

Eligible applicants Public or private nonprofit entities, including universities and units of State and local governments.

Contact Barbara Lubran, Chief, Homeless Demonstration and Evaluation Branch, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Parklawn Building 13C06, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443–0786.

Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Assistance for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Dwellings

Purpose Provide rental assistance for single-room housing units for occupancy by homeless individuals. The program is administered by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), which must submit applications for funds. Decisions regarding PHA selections will be made by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C., on the basis of demonstrated need and ability to undertake and complete a Moderate Rehabilitation program for the homeless.

Eligible applicants Public Housing Agencies.

Contact: Mary R. Maher, Chief, Moderate Rehabilitation Branch, Office of Elderly and Assisted Housing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410, (202) 755–4969.

Services to Prevent Separation of Homeless Children, Families

Purpose Authorize demonstration grants for the prevention of inappropriate separation of children from homeless or at-risk families and for the prevention of abuse and neglect of such children.

This program is not authorized until FY 1992.

Shelter Plus Care Program

Purpose Provide rental assistance to homeless persons with disabilities, in concert with supportive services funded from other Federal, State and local sources. The assistance will be primarily targeted to homeless persons who are seriously mentally ill, have chronic problems

with alcohol or drugs, or both, or have acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and related diseases.

Eligible applicants States, units of general local government and Indian tribes.

Contact Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708–2140 or (202) 708–1150.

Supplemental Assistance for Facilities to Assist the Homeless

Purpose Fund interest-free advances and grants to acquire, lease, convert or rehabilitate existing facilities and to provide support services and operating costs. Funds are available for comprehensive programs specifically designed to meet the needs of the homeless.

Eligible applicants States, units of general local government, Indian tribes and private nonprofit organizations.

Contact Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708–2140 or (202) 708–1150.

Supportive Housing Demonstration Program—Permanent Housing Component

Purpose Provide permanent housing assistance in developing community-based, long-term housing and support services for projects housing handicapped homeless people.

Eligible applicants States and territories, either on their own behalf or on behalf of private nonprofit project sponsors.

Contact Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708–2140 or (202) 708–1150.

Supportive Housing Demonstration Program—Transitional Housing Program

Purpose Develop innovative approaches to providing short-term (24 months or less) housing and support services to homeless persons making the transition to independent living. This program is especially targeted to deinstitutionalized homeless individuals, other homeless individuals with mental disabilities and homeless families with children.

Eligible applicants States, units of general local government, Public Housing Agencies and private, nonprofit agencies.

Contact Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708–2140 or (202) 708–1150.

Title V Surplus Property Program—Personal Property

Purpose Make surplus personal property available to nonprofit agencies.

Eligible applicants Qualifying public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including those that provide food, shelter or other services to the homeless.

Contact The State Agency for Surplus Property in your State, or write to: Stanley M. Duda, Director, Property Management Division (FBP), Office of Transportation and Property Management, Federal Supply Service, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20406.

Title V Surplus Property Program—Real Property

Purpose Make available for use by the homeless, certain federally owned real properties that have been reported by the various landholding agencies as excess to their needs or as being "unutilized" or "underutilized."

Eligible applicants States, units of local government, housing agencies or private nonprofit organizations.

Contact To find out which properties are available in your area, call toll-free 1–800–927–7588 or contact the HUD Field Office nearest you.

Written expressions of interest in particular properties should be submitted to: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Facilities Planning, U.S. Public Health Service, Room 17A–10, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.